

## RECORDING OF PROCEEDINGS

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### Wyoming Board of Agriculture Minutes November 1, 2006 Conference Call

#### Members Present:

Helen Jones  
David Graham  
Jim Mickelson  
Lee Otto  
David Largent  
John Etchepare, Director, WY Dept. of Agriculture  
Paige Smith, Governor Freudenthal's Office

#### Members Absent:

Spencer Ellis, President  
Jack Corson, Vice President  
Gene Hardy  
Patrick Zimmerer  
Dalin Winters  
Emily Horton  
Frank Galey, Dean, UW College of Agriculture

#### WDA Staff Present:

Muff Parker, Recording Secretary  
Jason Fearneyhough, Deputy Director

#### **Issues**

The Coal Bed Methane Task Force is meeting tomorrow in Douglas. Helen talked with Kenny Claybough and his meadows are completely flooded with water from the methane drilling. Helen is going to talk with the other task force members about the situation.

Lee Otto indicated he may not be able to make the Wheat Growers Convention. He also said that Boyd Yeik had an accident on his 4-wheeler and broke his neck.

John updated us on the Joint Ag meeting;

- He gave the final report from the Bio Security Task Force. He said there is a dire need for BSL3 diagnostic facilities in Laramie. Modulators can be purchased and the University is addressing getting funding for those temporary facilities. They also recommended the laboratory in the Hathaway be moved. They are also working on the ARS lab funding with the feds.
- On the Eminent Domain bill he said most industry and ag groups developed a new bill but another group did not support that document. In the end, the Committee took that bill and added a few amendments from the other group.
- They basically supported the Livestock Board bills, as they were done at the Committees' recommendations from their previous meeting.
- The Ag Board bill is the same one as presented last year. Senator Mier voted yes for now. He would still like to see additional members added. John feels he is not going to fight the bill even though he's not comfortable with it.
- The bill to reduce the Wheat Marketing Commission from seven to five members seemed

alright with the committee.

- The feed law bill went well. If it goes as presented, the Board of Ag would be able to make pricing adjustments without it having to go through the rule making process.
- The rest of the bills were fine. Main Street will be coming forward with a bill to eliminate the sunset clause. He isn't sure who will be sponsoring that bill.

Jim Mickelson wanted to know why Lincoln, Sublette, Teton and Uinta Counties were not included for the Livestock Assistance Program. John explained they did not qualify because they were not a D4 or D3 category on the Drought Monitor at some point between May 7, 2006 and August 31, 2006. Muff said the Board will be receiving the packets in their mail.

John announced Hank Uhden as the new Technical Services Manager. The State Fair nomination committee met and narrowed the search down to seven applicants to be interviewed November 13.

Paige had been asked by Gene at the last meeting, to check into the staffing of the Douglas FSA office. She indicated they are staffed on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday's from 9 – 5. Lois would also like to visit with the board at their meeting in February. John said their budget would possibly be cut and so the staffing of some of those offices may be changing.

There being no additional business. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

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Spencer Ellis, President

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Date